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EDITORIAL

The first international conference on ***Spatial Statistics,*** to which the present issue of Procedia is dedicated, was held in Enschede (The Netherlands), from March 23 to 25, 2011 (http://www.spatialstatisticsconference.com/). This conference had as a general theme 'Mapping global change'. It was jointly organized by the Faculty of Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the Twente University, Wageningen University and the University of Muenster. More than 300 participants from over 30 countries providing more than 250 scientific presentations, attended this conference.

Spatial statistics is a rapidly developing field which involves the quantitative analysis of spatial data and the statistical modelling of spatial variability and uncertainty. Applications of spatial statistics are in a broad range of environmental disciplines such as agriculture, soil science, hydrology, ecology, forestry, meteorology and climatology, but also in socio-economic disciplines such as health, epidemiology, human geography, spatial econometrics and spatial planning. Global change is a rather general terms that identifies a really global theme of interrelated changes in the environment and the social world. It requires the best spatial and spatio-temporal statistical methods to identify its scope, effects and directions. The special issue reflects on the state-of-the-art of the statistical methods in relation to global change. The present issue includes short research papers of the authors that gave a presentation to the conference. We wish to thank the authors who have contributed to yield a high scientific standard to this issue. We are also grateful to the Publisher for allowing us to share some of the conference results with a larger audience of colleagues involved in statistical and environmental research. The publication of the issue will surely amplify the conference outcome and generate a much larger discussion and scientific progress.

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